

Dear Gerard, Kristen, and the entire SWFSC survey crew;

On behalf of Andy Blair, Mike Okoniewski, the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (WCP) and myself, we would like to thank you and the staff at the SWFCS for our recent opportunity to sail onboard the R/V *Reuben Lasker* and use an industry seine vessel to assist in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) survey in the Oregon/Washington coastal waters. This opportunity has given us a better understanding of the scientific protocols and procedures for ship surveys in general, and for CPS in particular.

I was impressed. It was a wonderful chance to see science in action. From a fisherman's perspective, the array of acoustic and scientific equipment itself is stunning. However, it was the dedicated men and women that made the real difference. Every crewmember was very professional in every sense and yet made us feel included, safe, and at home.

The *Reuben Lasker* officers, crew, and scientific staff are also to be commended for the excellent work they did coordinating with the F/V *Lisa Marie* as the cruise performed multiple exploratory and scientific surveillance transects along the Washington and Oregon coast. Recognition is also to be accorded to the *Lisa Marie*, her captain Rick Blair and her crew for the time and effort they put into this collaborative effort.

It is hoped this type of partnership can be utilized in the future for the entire West Coast.

The *Reuben Lasker* is truly a fine ship with an exceptional crew.

Kudos to the entire SW Center, but our special thanks and gratitude to the ship's crew and those who worked so hard to make this happen. We believe this to be a great step forward to forging a partnership between industry and NMFS for more collaborative research in the future.

Thank you

Greg Shaughnessy

Ocean Gold Seafood, COO

West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group